

REMARKS

The Applicant has received and reviewed the Official Action mailed on 31 July 2006 (the "Office Action"), and submits this paper as a fully-responsive reply thereto. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Office for a detailed analysis presented in the Office Action.

Claims not readable on elected species

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claims 21-24 are not readable on the elected species (Figure 2-3). Without conceding the propriety of the position stated in Paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Applicant withdraws claims 21-24.

Claims 2, 4, 17, and 20 were withdrawn previously as drawn to non-elected species.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Brown in view of Brown, Jr.

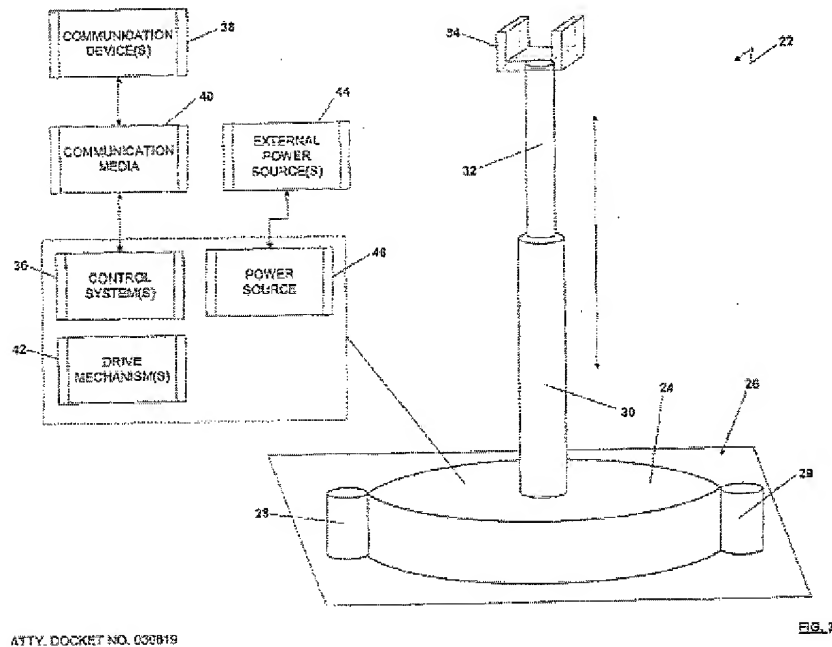
Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,709,172 to Brown (hereinafter, "Brown") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,158,555 to Brown, Jr. (hereinafter, "Brown Jr."). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning first to **independent claim 1**, only to advance prosecution of this matter, and without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections or conceding that the cited art provides the teaching for which it is cited, the Applicant has

1 amended claim 1 to clarify additional aspects of the cable drop support system.
2 For convenience, the Applicant has reproduced here a portion of claim 1, as it
3 would stand after entry of the above revisions, with emphasis added for ease of
4 reference:

5
6 “a cable receptacle attached to an end portion of the at least one segment, the cable
7 receptacle *having a generally U-shaped cross-section for receiving therein* at least an
8 intermediate portion of a cable;”

9
10 The Applicant submits that the revisions to claim 1 are supported at least by
11 Figure 2 of the drawings, which is reproduced here for convenience:



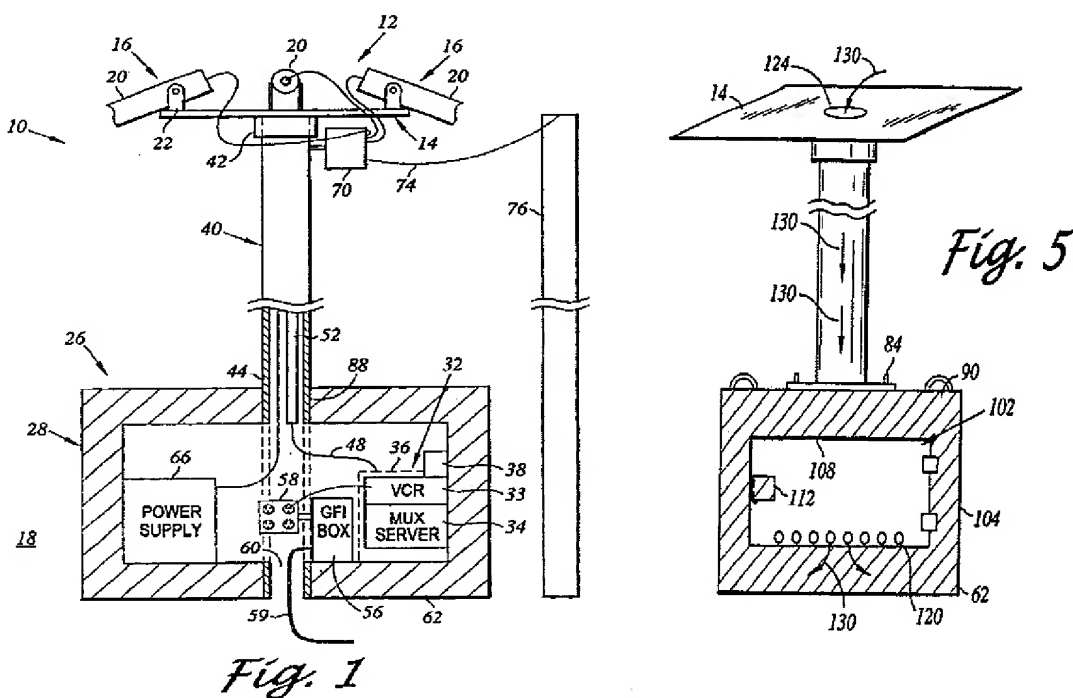
21 ATTY. DOCKET NO. 032819

22 As shown in Figure 2, element 34 has a generally U-shaped cross-section.

23 Turning to the claim rejections, the Applicant respectfully submits that the
24 rejection of claim 1 is improper because the cited references do not teach or
25

suggest all of the elements of Applicant's claim, which is required for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to be stated. More specifically, the Applicant submits that neither Brown nor Brown, Jr. teach or suggest at least the feature italicized in the claim language quoted above.

Turning first to Brown, Brown pertains generally to a system for a temporary surveillance system. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces here Brown's Figures 1 and 5:



The Official Action cited Brown's platform 14 in Figure 1 against the Applicant's recited cable receptacle. However, the Applicant submits that Brown's platform 14 is planar, and does not teach or suggest "cable receptacle having a *generally U-shaped cross-section* for receiving therein at least an intermediate portion of a cable", as provided in claim 1. Brown describes the platform 14 in column 5, lines 15-18, 26-28, and 41-45. For example, in column 5

1 lines 41-45, Brown specifically states that the platform ‘may be a *substantially*
2 *planar element* made of steel or other suitable materials or materials of
3 construction’ (emphasis added). However, Brown’s planar platform 14 neither
4 teaches nor suggests a “generally U-shaped cross-section”, as recited in claim 1.

5 Based at least one the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brown does not
6 support a § 103 rejection of claim 1. In addition to the foregoing, the Official
7 Action appeared to indicate on Page 3 that Brown does not teach a drive
8 mechanism operatively coupled to respond to the control system. Thus, the
9 Official Action cited Brown, Jr. for this teaching.

10 Brown, Jr. pertains generally to an apparatus and method for carrying wires
11 along a vehicle-mounted extensible mast. Without conceding that Brown, Jr.
12 provides the teaching for which it is cited, the Applicant submits that Brown, Jr.
13 neither teaches nor suggests a “cable receptacle having a *generally U-shaped*
14 *cross-section* for receiving therein at least an intermediate portion of a cable”, as
15 recited in claim 1. Therefore, Brown, Jr. does not cure the above deficiencies of
16 Brown.

17 In light of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brown and Brown Jr.,
18 whether considered separately or in combination, fail to support a § 103 rejection
19 of claim 1. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the §103 rejection
20 be withdrawn.

21 **Dependent claims 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18** depend from claim 1 and, by
22 virtue of this dependency, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply equally
23 to these claims. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken together
24 with those of claim 1, define additional aspects of the cable drop support system
25 not taught or suggested by Brown and Brown Jr.

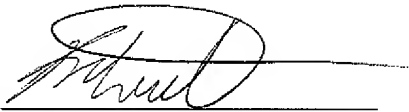
1 Turning to **independent claim 19**, the Applicant has revised claim 19 to
2 clarify aspects of the cable drop support system similar to those discussed above
3 with claim 1. Therefore, the above comments directed above to claim 1 apply
4 equally to claim 19. On at least this basis, the Applicant requests reconsideration
5 and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19.

6
7 **Conclusion**

8 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the
9 rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18-19, and favorable action on the
10 subject application. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance
11 of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to
12 resolve the issue.

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14
15 Date: 30 OCT 06

Respectfully Submitted,

16 By: 

17 Rocco L. Adornato
18 Lee & Hayes, pllc
19 Reg. No. 40,480
20 (509) 324-9256 ext. 257
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